

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 SR-02

ORM-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 /085 W

----- 117137

R 101336Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7035

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUTY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3599

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, IS, XF, UNRWA

SUBJECT: GOI INTERESTS IN UNRWA FINANCIAL SITUATION

1. MFA OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR UNRWA AFFAIRS
(MELAMEDL CONTACTED US JUNE 10 TO INQUIRE AS TO
STATUS OF SUPPLEMENTARY US FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
TO AGENCY. INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT WAS AROUSED
DURING ROUTINE PERIODIC VISIT TO ISRAEL IN LATE
MAY BY UNRWA DEPCOMGEN MCELHINEY. ACCORDING
MELAMED, MCELHINEY BRIEFED GOI OFFICIALS ON
FINANCIAL SITUATION AND SPOKE OF ANTICIPATED
DEFICIT OF \$23 MILLION, IN APPARENT EFFORT TO
IMPRESS UPON ISRAELIS GRAVITY OF FINANCIAL
PICTURE AND LIKELIHOOD THAT THERE MAY HAVE TO BE
CUTS IN RATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.
MCELHINEY TOLD GOI THAT SITUATION WAS MUCH WORSE
THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS, AND THAT RESPONSE TO
APPEALS TO ARAB GOVERNMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL CON-
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TRIBUTIONS HAD NO PRODUCED MUCH.

2. ACCORDING TO MELAMED, MCELHINEY'S DISCUSSION OF WHICH SERVICES MIGHT BE CUT WAS VERY GENERAL AND GOI WILL AWAIT MORE SPECIFIC INDICATIONS OF WAYS IN WHICH SERVICES WILL BE AFFECTED BEFORE FORMULATING ANY NEW POLICIES TOWARD REFUGEE POPULATIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. GOI BELIEVES LIKELIHOOD OF DISTURBANCES STEMMING FROM LOSS IN SERVICES WILL DEPEND GREATLY ON TIMING AND PACE OF REDUCTIONS, BUT BELIEVES MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN WEST BANK AND GAZA WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE ANY SITUATION THAT MIGHT ARISE.

3. MELAMED EXPRESSED DESIRE TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND SPECIFICALLY RESULTS OF ADCOM MEETING.

4. COMMENT: WITH EXCEPTION OF CONVERSATION WITH MIL GOVT OFFICIAL IN GAZA WE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED UNRWA FINANCIAL SITUATION WITH GOI. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AS TO HOW TO RESPOND TO MELAMED'S REQUEST FOR INFO CONCERNING JUNE 12 ADCOM MEETING.
VELIOTES

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